APRIL 16, 2021 • VOL. 11 • NO. 22 EDITION 5-6

TIME for KiDS

DOUBLE ISSUE: EARTH DAY

WOLF WATCH

Should the gray wolf stay on the endangered-species list?

timeforkids.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Here's what you'll find in TFK's Earth Day double issue.

News Brief 2

Cover Story:
Back to the Wild 4
Gray wolves have been removed from the endangered-species list. But conservationists say wolves still need protection. ▼

DAVID TIPLING—UNIVERSAL IMAGES GROUP/GETTY IMAGES

This gray wolf is on the prowl.

Environment 6
Divers explore a mysterious underwater sinkhole.

In My Opinion 7
TFK Kid of the Year honoree Ian McKenna shares gardening tips.

Kid Central 8
These five kid heroes are working to help the environment.

Animals 10
Butterfly populations are on the decline.

U.S. 11
Look out! Trillions of cicadas are emerging this spring.

Technology 12
Electric cars have arrived! ▼

SEONGJOON CHO—BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES

This cool car runs on batteries.

Debate 14
Should people be rewarded for recycling?

Interview 15
TFK talks with water-rights activist Autumn Peltier.

Time Off 16
Three new books feature the Earth and its creatures.

COVER: GERALD CORSI—GETTY IMAGES

CLOSE ENCOUNTER Two African forest elephants have a bath in the Central African Republic in April 2019. The species is critically endangered.

FLORENT VERGNES—AFP/GETTY IMAGES

ELEPHANTS AT RISK

By Shay Maunz

African elephants are becoming more endangered, according to a March 25 report by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The group looks at animal populations to determine how likely they are to become extinct.

There are two species of African elephant. Savanna elephants roam open grasslands. Forest elephants live in wooded areas. Both are in trouble.

Over the past 50 years, the savanna elephant population has fallen by 60%. The IUCN lists the animal as endangered. The forest elephant population has declined by more than 86% over 31 years. The forest elephant is now listed as critically endangered. Today, Africa has about 415,000 elephants.

The last time the IUCN looked at African elephants was in 2008. Back then, both species of elephant were grouped in one category and listed as vulnerable. That's the category before endangered.

Experts say the main threats to elephants are poaching and habitat loss. IUCN director general Bruno Oberle hopes the report inspires governments and individuals to take action. "Africa's elephants play key roles in ecosystems, economies, and in our collective imagination all over the world," he says.

Stop and Think!

WHAT data does the author use in this article? How does the data help you understand the problem the article describes?

FROM OUR READERS . . .

Dear Editor,

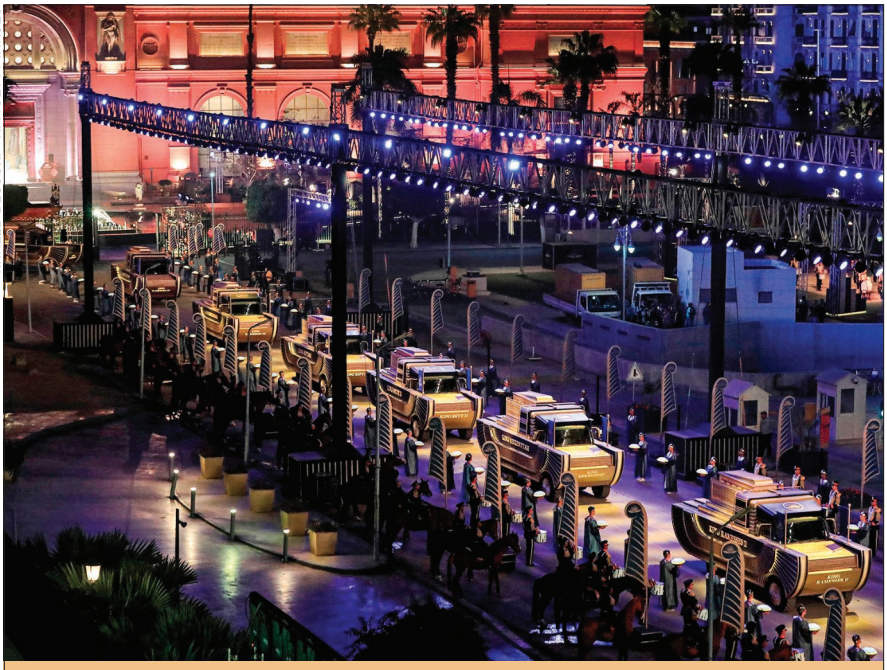
With regard to your article "Exploring Mars" (March 26), it was interesting and amazing to learn that a rover has successfully landed on Mars to search for evidence of past microbial life. I congratulate the scientists, engineers, and mechanics who achieved this feat. I am really excited and can't wait to see what the rover discovers. I am also amazed that the heat shield could withstand a temperature that reached 2,370°F because of atmospheric friction.

I wonder how scientists were able to create all that technology. It must have taken years of study and research. And I wonder what it would be like to find out that the species we know on Earth (including us) aren't the only ones to have inhabited this universe. I am eagerly waiting for more updates from the Red Planet!

RUDRH NAIR, 9
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

Write to us at *tfkeditors@time.com* to share your thoughts and ideas.

KHALED DESOUKI—AFP/GETTY IMAGES



SNAPSHOT

MUMMIES ON THE MOVE The Pharaohs' Golden Parade took place in Cairo, Egypt, on April 3. It celebrated the country's history, transporting 22 royal mummies from the Egyptian Museum to the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization. The mummies of 18 kings and four queens were carried in custom-made vehicles. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime event. These are our ancestors," Sarah Zaher, a parade attendee, told the *New York Times*. *—By Rebecca Mordechai*

NEWS STORIES MAY INCLUDE REPORTING FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

BE A TFK KID REPORTER

Do you dream of being a reporter? Enter the TFK Kid Reporter Contest for a chance to report for our magazines and website. TFK Editors will choose 10 talented students as TFK Kid Reporters for the 2021–2022 school year. To apply online or by mail, ask a parent, guardian, or teacher for details, or learn more at *timeforkids.com/kid-reporter*.

FREE TO ROAM A wolf is released at Yellowstone National Park in January 1996. The wolf was relocated from Canada as part of conservation efforts.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE/AP

TIER UND NATURFOTOGRAFIE J UND C SOHNS/GETTY IMAGES

PUPS GROW UP These gray wolves are pups. Adults can weigh 100 pounds. The animals live in groups called packs.

Power Words

conservation *noun*: the preservation and protection of something

continental *adjective*: having to do with the portion of the U.S. that is attached to the North American continent

PLAYFUL PACK Wolves play in a snowy Montana forest. Thick fur keeps the animals warm.

KEITH SZAFRANSKI—GETTY IMAGES

FIERCE PREDATOR A wolf threatens a pack of bison in Yellowstone National Park. Wolves hunt and kill bison for food.

THE JACK/GETTY IMAGES

BACK TO THE WILD

Wolves have been removed from the endangered-species list. But do they still need protection?

Gray wolves have roamed North America for at least half a million years. Their habitat once included most of the continental United States. But during the 1800s and early 1900s, wolves were hunted to near extinction. By the 1960s, the U.S. wolf population was limited to a handful of creatures in small corners of the northern Midwest.

Then, in 1973, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) became law. It protects animals at risk of becoming extinct. Gray wolves were one of the first animals placed on the endangered-species list. Killing them was illegal. And the U.S. government worked to promote their conservation. In a famous example of this effort, starting in 1995, 31 wolves were moved from Canada to Yellowstone National Park. By 2015, more than 500 gray wolves were living in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Today, the continental U.S. is home to more than 6,000 gray wolves. On January 4, 2021, the U.S. government removed gray wolves from the endangered-species list. Usually, an animal's delisting would be cause for celebration. But some conservationists say the predators still need protection.

A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION

"Wolves are controversial," Adrian Treves told TIME for Kids. He's a wolf expert at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. "People can't agree about their protected status or whether they're actually safe and secure."

In some parts of the country, wolves are thriving. More than a thousand of them can be found just in Michigan and Wisconsin. But overall, their range is still a fraction of what it was. Wolves used to live across most of the U.S. Now they're found in fewer than a dozen states.

Some experts say the goal of the ESA should be to protect an animal until it has reclaimed its original range. Others argue that as long as a species is not at risk of extinction, it doesn't belong on the endangered-species list. And ranchers with land near wolf habitats say that if the predator's population continues to grow, more of their livestock will be killed by wolves.

David Bernhardt was secretary of the interior when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced its plan to delist the gray wolf, in October 2020. "The gray wolf has exceeded all conservation goals for recovery," he says. According to Bernhardt, the wolf "is neither a threatened nor [an] endangered species."

But Jason Rylander, of the conservation group Defenders of Wildlife, worries that without protection, the wolf population will crash again: "We have to ask, 'Is the work of recovery really done for this species?' In our view, it's not. There are still too many places where the population hasn't come back."

WHAT'S NEXT?

Environmental groups are suing the U.S. government over the decision to delist the wolf. Rylander hopes that no matter what, people and wolves can peacefully coexist. His group is promoting ways to make that happen, like using portable wire fences to keep wolves away from grazing livestock. For now, protection of nearly all wolves is up to the states. In November 2020, Colorado voters approved a measure that would focus on the wolves within its borders. *—By Shay Maunz*

GRAY WOLF FACTS

The gray wolf is a fierce predator. It has long teeth and powerful jaws, and can chase prey at more than 35 miles per hour. A typical male weighs about 100 pounds and is more than six feet long. (That includes its bushy tail, which is one or two feet long.)

Wolves live in packs of up to 30 adults and pups. They communicate with one another using facial expressions and the positions of their bodies and tails. Howling helps members of a pack stay in touch.

DAVID TIPLING—UNIVERSAL IMAGES GROUP/GETTY IMAGES

ENVIRONMENT

MYSTERY OF THE SEA

Scientists are exploring a sinkhole off the coast of Florida. It's called the Green Banana.

KRISTIN PATERAKIS

CLOSE ENCOUNTER Jim Culter bumps into a jellyfish during the Green Banana mission in September 2020.

Legend has it that in the 1970s, a boat captain spotted a green banana peel floating above a sinkhole about 50 miles off the coast of Florida. That sinkhole is now known as the Green Banana.

A sinkhole is a hollow place in the Earth in which water collects. The Green Banana sinkhole starts about 160 feet below the ocean's surface and goes another 265 feet down. Scientists think it formed thousands of years ago. Sea levels were low then, exposing porous rock. Over the years, rain dissolved the rock and carved a hole in it. Since then, sea levels have risen and covered the hole with water.

Emily Hall is a senior scientist at Mote Marine Laboratory, in Florida. In August and September, she led the first-ever scientific mission to the Green Banana. Its findings will help us better understand sinkholes. "We're learning about how unique they are," Hall told TIME for Kids, "and why they might be important to the ecosystem."

DIVING TO DISCOVER

The seawater in sinkholes is unusual. It's richer in nutrients than the surrounding waters. Microscopic algae called phytoplankton feed on the nutrients. Small fish feed on the algae. Larger fish feed on small fish. Because of this diversity of life, Hall calls sinkholes "oases of the sea."

But there could be a downside to this abundance. Scientists wonder if the nutrients are causing red tide. This happens when algae grow out of control. Some species of algae release toxins that kill marine life.

Hall says these algae species were found in the Green Banana. "Could there be a connection between red tide and nutrients in these holes?" Hall asks. "We hope to investigate in the future."

MISSION CHALLENGES

Exploring the Green Banana isn't easy. Only divers trained to swim below 130 feet can reach it. Jim Culter is one of these divers. Like Hall, he's also a senior scientist at Mote Marine Laboratory. During the mission, Culter swam to depths of more than 300 feet. "We tried to reduce the number of divers going in because [of the] risk," he says.

Scientists will return to the Green Banana in May, to see how it might have changed since their first visit. Culter is gearing up for the dive. "No matter how many times you go down," he says, "it can be quite dramatic." *—By Rebecca Mordechai*

Power Words

oasis *noun*: a place where there's more life than in the surrounding area

porous *adjective*: capable of being penetrated by air or water

GARDEN GURU Gardening expert Ian McKenna grows food for hungry families in Austin, Texas.

COURTESY IAN MCKENNA

GROW YOUR OWN GARDEN

TFK Kid Reporter and TIME Kid of the Year honoree Ian McKenna shares his advice for starting a garden.

Gardens come in all shapes and sizes. Starting a new one from scratch might seem daunting. But with a little planning and a few tips, you'll be growing in no time.

One of the most important things to remember when planning a garden is to grow what you love. This way, you'll be sure to enjoy the process. You can grow herbs and vegetables. If you don't like vegetables, you can grow fruits or flowers. If you're allergic to flowers, try cacti and other succulents.

You can grow a garden to feed yourself, your family, your neighbors, and people struggling with food insecurity, which is an issue I care deeply about. There are so many different things you can grow and so many different reasons to grow. Find your passion.

SIMPLE STEPS

Once you decide what type of garden you'd like to start, you'll need to plan a few things before getting to work. First, figure out where your garden will be. Find a location that is fairly flat and has good access to sunlight.

Maybe you live in an apartment and don't have a yard. That's not a problem! You can start a garden in containers or most repurposed plastic bottles. You can even grow a garden in old rain boots.

Next, pick the right soil. This is important for an efficient garden. An expert at a gardening store can advise you on the best soil for your needs.

After you have the correct soil, choose your plants. Will you start with seeds or seedlings? Growing from seeds is often less expensive. And it's more satisfying, because you get to watch the growth from seed to plant. But growing from seedlings, or young plants, is easier. There's a better chance your plant will grow big enough to produce.

GET PLANTING

You're finally ready to plant your garden. I suggest planting right before the start of the growing season. This is so the plants can adapt to the soil. You'll see them start to produce sooner.

If you're a new gardener, start small. You want to enjoy your garden and not get overwhelmed. Once you know how to plant a garden, you'll be able to plant season after season and try to grow new things.

Soon your flowers will bloom or your plants will produce fruits and vegetables. Share flowers with neighbors to brighten their day, or bring some extra veggies to a family that's going through a hard time. As I like to say, "Be a good human!"

Power Words

efficient *adjective*: effective by the simplest means

produce *verb*: to develop fruits or vegetables, as a plant does

KID HEROES for the PLANET

On Earth Day, people around the world work to help our planet. But April 22 isn't the only day this happens. Many people, including kids, protect the Earth all year long. Read about five inspiring Kid Heroes for the Planet, then decide how *you* will make a difference.

Saving the Frogs

COURTESY OF SHERI SATHER

JUSTIN SATHER, from Los Angeles, California, has always loved frogs. When he was 5, Justin learned that his favorite animal's habitat was in danger. So he hopped into action. He started a group called For the Love of Frogs and sold toy frogs to raise money. Now 10, Justin has raised more than $20,000 to support frog conservation. For his efforts, he was a 2020 Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes honoree.

Justin told TIME for Kids that frogs are an "indicator species." This means that when their habitat is threatened, they show signs of illness earlier than other animals. "Frogs are telling us our planet really needs your help," Justin says. In addition to helping his favorite amphibians, Justin raises awareness of issues such as habitat destruction and ocean pollution.

—By Karena Phan

Growing Right

When **AADYA JOSHI** was 15, she converted a junk lot in her neighborhood, in Mumbai, India, into a garden. She used plants native to the area. Joshi says native species attract native insects and animals. "The way to fix the habitat isn't just to plant any tree," she says. "It's to make sure you replace what was torn down from that spot."

Now, at 18, Joshi is leading the Right Green, an organization she founded to educate people, including students, about growing native plants and maintaining healthy ecosystems. She also created a database of more than 2,000 plants in India. It's a resource where people can learn which plant species are native to their area. Joshi is still adding to the database. "If you believe in something," she says, "you really have to go out and do it yourself, no matter what someone tells you."

—K.P.


COURTESY OF RITU JOSHI

Cleaning Up

JEREMY MUCHILWA, 13, and **MICHELLE MUCHILWA,** 15, are siblings from Kisumu, Kenya. After participating in the Ocean Heroes Bootcamp in June 2020, they were inspired to fight plastic pollution in nearby Lake Victoria. They designed a campaign to bring the community together to pick up plastic waste.

With help from the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, the sister-and-brother team explored sustainable ways to keep Lake Victoria clean. "We were so shy and scared because we didn't think they were going to help us," Jeremy says. "When we were welcomed, we were so shocked. They were so kind and helped us so much."

The Muchilwas hope to find new ways to draw attention to plastic pollution. "When you are coming up with solutions, you need to have people talk to one another," Michelle says. "Everyone can solve a problem. You can use your talents to create change."

—By Ellen Nam

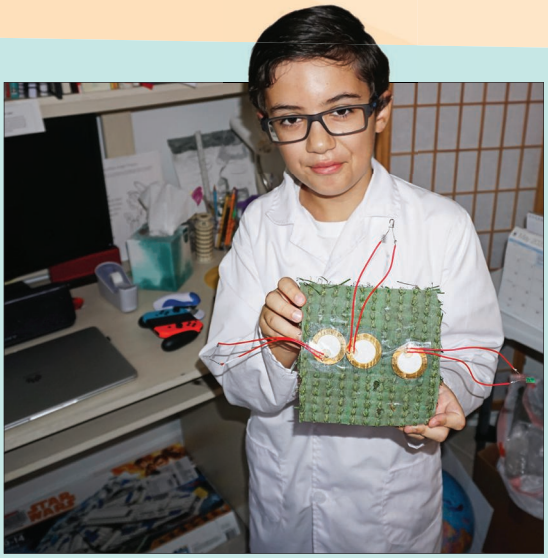
COURTESY OF THE MUCHILWA FAMILY (3)

Creating Energy

While playing with a friend on Astroturf in Naples, Florida, 11-year-old **XAVIER BAQUERO-IGLESIAS** noticed something: it was super hot, much hotter than real grass. Xavier used his knowledge of science to form a hypothesis about why this was so. Then he invented SoleX Turf. It uses the heat from Astroturf to make electricity.

Now 12, Xavier says his invention creates electricity in a way that's less harmful to the environment than other energy sources. "I wanted to find a way to reduce the effects [of climate change], and the main way to do that is to find renewable energy sources," he says. "I wanted to learn all that I could . . . to find solutions to our global problems."

—E.N.



MARIA T. BAQUERO

THE BUTTERFLY PROBLEM

Butterfly populations are declining. New research shows that humans and climate change are to blame.

For 23 years, the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation has held an annual monarch butterfly count. Each autumn, volunteers visit spots on the West Coast where monarchs are known to gather. They count the colorful insects to learn about the health of the species.

When Xerces started counting, in 1997, it found more than 1.2 million monarchs. By 2018, that number had dropped to fewer than 30,000. In 2020, the group reported a new low: just 1,914 monarchs. "These sites normally host thousands of butterflies," Sarina Jepsen, of the Xerces Society, told the AP. "Their absence this year was heartbreaking."

A study was published in March in the journal *Science*. Researchers looked at decades' worth of data on butterflies collected by scientists and volunteers in the western United States. The researchers found that butterfly populations are shrinking by almost 2% each year. "That might sound like a small number" of butterflies, Matt Forister, the study's lead author, told TIME for Kids. "But it compounds each year. Over time, it's really bad."

CAUSE AND EFFECT

Monarchs aren't the only butterfly population in decline. According to the study, most butterfly populations are reaching new lows.

Why are butterflies in trouble? For one thing, humans are taking over their habitat. Butterflies need flowering plants for food and to lay eggs on. When new buildings and roads replace fields and forests, the plants that butterflies need are lost. Pesticides used by farmers and gardeners also harm the insects.

Forister's research suggests that climate change is to blame, as well. His team took a close look at "nice, natural areas" mostly unaffected by humans—places one might expect to find many butterflies flitting about. Even there, the numbers were down. That led Forister and his team to believe that warming temperatures in the fall are harming the insects.

HOW TO HELP

To help butterflies, look no further than your backyard. Growing flowering plants, like local milkweed, and avoiding pesticides can make a yard safe for butterflies. It's also good to let it get messy. Butterflies use fallen leaves for protection.

"Insects are in our backyards, even if we don't always see them," Forister says. "Having a yard free of toxins, with native plants, helps a lot." *—By Shay Maunz*

Power Words

compound *verb*: to add to, or to make a problem worse

toxin *noun*: a poisonous substance

KATHERINE FREY—THE WASHINGTON POST/GETTY IMAGES

SAFE PLACE TO LAND A butterfly lands on a sprig of lavender at a farm in Maryland.

RICHARD ELLIS—GETTY IMAGES

OUT AND ABOUT Brood 10 cicadas last emerged across the eastern United States in 2004.

RETURN OF THE CICADAS

After 17 years underground, Brood 10 cicadas are ready to come out and make some noise.

Parts of the eastern United States and Midwest will witness an extraordinary natural event this spring. Trillions of Brood 10 cicadas are expected to emerge in mid-May after 17 years underground. They'll likely be around until late June or July.

They come out to mate. Across 15 states, the cicadas will create a buzz as loud as a lawn mower—their mating call. It's the male cicada that's making all that noise, Michael Raupp told TIME for Kids. Raupp is an entomology professor at the University of Maryland, College Park. "It's going to be a big boy band up in the treetops," he says.

Cicadas are believed to come out in huge numbers to overwhelm predators. Within a few weeks, females will lay hundreds of eggs, and then, as suddenly as they appeared, the cicadas will die. Their offspring, having tunneled into the ground, won't come out for another 17 years.

"This unique event happens nowhere else on the planet," Raupp says. "The abundance of these cicadas is going to be amazing."

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

Brood 10 is a family of what are known as periodical cicadas, meaning they come out once in a while instead of every year or every few years. Their rare appearance in such huge numbers is what makes them fascinating, Raupp says. "I think that's part of the mystery, and what makes them so magical."

The cicadas emerge when soil temperatures reach 64°F. They crawl out from under the ground and fly up into trees. If you're standing outside, one might land on you. But don't worry: Cicadas aren't dangerous. The insects don't bite or sting. They might just give you a friendly little poke.

Up in the trees, female cicadas lay their eggs. After their mission is accomplished, the insects fall to the ground and die.

About six weeks later, the eggs develop into nymphs, or young insects, which tumble out of the trees and dig themselves into the earth. That's where they'll spend the next 17 years, feeding on root sap until they're ready to come out again.

Raupp says it's a drama you just can't miss: "There's going to be birth, there's going to be death, there's going to be predation, there's going to be romance. There are going to be songs. Just go out and enjoy these things. This is only going to happen a handful of times in your lifetime."

—By Rebecca Katzman

Power Words

entomology *noun*: the study of insects

predation *noun*: the process of one living thing killing another for food

DAVID BUTOW—CORBIS/GETTY IMAGES

EARLY MODEL Introduced in the 1990s, GM's EV1 is the first modern electric car made to be sold in large numbers.

ROAD READY This Chevy Bolt is on display in Seoul, South Korea, in March 2017. The Bolt was GM's first mass-produced all-electric vehicle.

SEONGJOON CHO—BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES

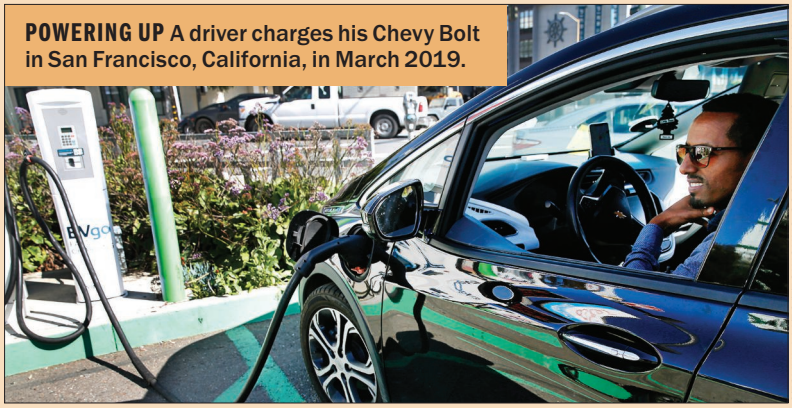
STR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

BATTERY PACK A worker handles batteries at a factory in Nanjing, China, on March 12, 2021.

LI JIANLIN—VCG/GETTY IMAGES

WORK IN PROGRESS An assembly line worker inspects an electric car at a factory in Jinhua, China, on February 18, 2021.

POWERING UP A driver charges his Chevy Bolt in San Francisco, California, in March 2019.



PAUL CHINN—SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE/GETTY IMAGES

Power Words

carbon emission *noun*: the release of carbon dioxide gas through human activities such as burning oil, coal, or gasoline

fossil fuel *noun*: a fuel formed in the earth from plant or animal remains

AN ELECTRIC FUTURE

The days of the gasoline-powered car are numbered. Say hello to electric vehicles.

In January, one of the world's major automakers, General Motors (GM), announced that it would stop selling gas-powered cars by 2035. The company says it will make more battery-powered vehicles. In March, Swedish automaker Volvo stepped up the timeline. It said it would go all-electric by 2030.

It's a momentous time for the auto industry. Scientists say moving away from gas-powered vehicles is crucial to fighting climate change. Transportation causes about 25% of global carbon emissions. Three-quarters of that is from road travel.

Countries are eager to get more electric cars on the road. In China, policy makers say that most new vehicles sold there by 2035 will be electric. The United Kingdom, Ireland, and the Netherlands will ban new gas-powered cars in 2030.

Venkat Viswanathan is a professor of mechanical engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He told TIME for Kids, "It is now abundantly clear that electric is the future."

A CLEANER OPTION

The key to an electric future is batteries. Automakers are racing to pack the most energy into the smallest one. Enter the lithium-ion battery. It's what powers our mobile devices. It can be recharged again and again.

Making these batteries has an environmental cost. Lithium is taken from the earth, like the oil used to make gasoline. But the long-term cost is much smaller. "Once you burn gasoline, you can't recycle it," Jessika Trancik says. She's a researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in Cambridge. "But when you use up a battery, you can still recycle the material."

As electric cars recharge, they draw energy from power plants that burn fossil fuels. This also has an environmental cost. But as countries switch to cleaner energy sources, such as wind and solar power, electric vehicles will get cleaner too.

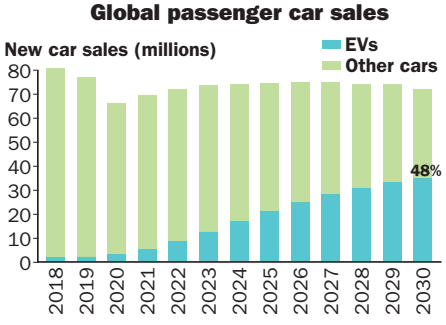
Even now, electric vehicles are the best bet. Trancik says switching to one will reduce the carbon emissions a person generates by at least 30%.

DRIVING AHEAD

It's up to governments to make electric cars accessible to everyone. National policies can help. In China, which has invested in electric-car production for years, a no-frills electric vehicle sells for as little as $5,000. In the United States, a new Chevy Volt costs about $35,000.

Charging stations must also be made widely available. As part of an effort to fight climate change, President Joe Biden plans to build half a million of them in the U.S. by 2030. Trancik hopes this will be done fairly. "It's important to put chargers where many different people can have access to them," she says. "Not just wealthier people."

Last year, almost 5% of approximately 67 million new cars sold worldwide were electric (see "On the Rise"). Sales will likely increase. For Viswanathan, electric cars are just the beginning. He sees a future of solar-powered homes and electric *flying* cars. "Your entire life will run on batteries," he says. "It will be a totally new world." *—By Brian S. McGrath*



SOURCE: CANALYS

ON THE RISE

Worldwide, the sales of electric vehicles are trending upward. By some estimates, about 50% of new cars sold by 2030 will be electric (see chart).

The popularity of electric cars will rise as prices come down. That's happening faster than expected. Technology is improving as governments invest in battery development. Soon, a plug-in vehicle might be as cheap as a gas-powered car.

DEBATE

SHOULD PEOPLE BE REWARDED FOR RECYCLING?

JOHNNY GREIG—GETTY IMAGES

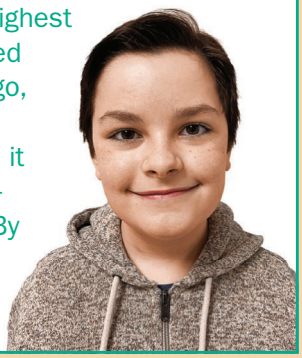
Boots is a company with stores throughout the United Kingdom. It sells health and beauty products. In September 2020, Boots launched a program that rewards customers for recycling empty product packaging. Participants get points they can use toward store purchases. In the program's first few months, Boots recycled more than a ton of plastic.

Other companies have similar programs. Should cities, states, and countries consider giving rewards for recycling too? Some say people shouldn't need a reward to keep the planet clean. Others say any initiative that encourages people to recycle is helpful. We asked TIME for Kids readers to weigh in. Many wrote to us to share their opinions. Here's what four of them had to say.

YES

CONOR MAPLES, 11
WHEATON, ILLINOIS

People should be rewarded for recycling. San Francisco, California, has a program that rewards recycling. San Francisco has one of the highest recycling rates in the United States. Meanwhile, Chicago, Illinois, doesn't enforce recycling laws enough, and it has one of the lowest recycling rates in the country. By rewarding recycling, many cities would be cleaner.



COURTESY KENNETH STRAYVE

NO

RUHI PATEL, 9
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Even though people don't recycle enough, those who do know that the reward is having a cleaner environment for future generations. What can be more rewarding than this? Rewards will only encourage people to buy more disposable items rather than take the right steps to reduce the amount they're producing in the first place.

COURTESY NETAL PATEL

YES

ELIZABETH CARD, 10
QUEENS, NEW YORK

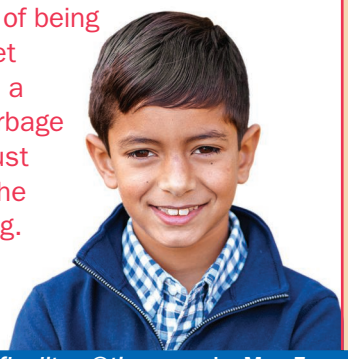
If people get rewarded, they will recycle more. A good example of this is deposit-return schemes, which pay back a small amount of money when customers recycle an item. According to the United Kingdom's Environmental Audit Committee, countries with deposit-return schemes have a much higher rate of recycling than other countries.

COURTESY HANNAH CARD JUNG

NO

ANDREW HORAN, 9
PELHAM, NEW YORK

People shouldn't be rewarded for recycling. They should recycle anyway because the world has a lot of waste. Recycling is just a part of being a good citizen of Planet Earth. Do people need a reward for throwing garbage in the trash? No. It's just the right thing to do. The same goes for recycling. It should be a part of everyday life now.



JANE GOODRICH PHOTOGRAPHY

THE NEXT DEBATE Should summer reading be mandatory? Email your opinion to *tfkeditors@time.com* by May 5. Your response might appear in an upcoming issue.

INTERVIEW

8 QUESTIONS FOR AUTUMN PELTIER

A member of the Wiikwemkoong First Nation, Autumn Peltier, 16, lives in Canada. She advocates for clean water for that country's indigenous people. TFK Kid Reporter Pranav Mukhi spoke with her about the power of youth activism.

1. What does water mean to First Nations people?
We believe that we are part of the land, and that we come from the land. We learn that we have a right to protect the land and protect the water.

2. What problems do indigenous communities in Canada face when it comes to water?
They often have little access to clean drinking water because of landfills, oil spills, or old mining sites. For more than 20 years, these communities have been told to boil their water. Canadians have little awareness of this issue.

3. I heard that you took your concerns to Justin Trudeau, the prime minister of Canada.
I met him in 2016. I was told not to say anything to him, just to give him a gift. When he reached for the gift, I pulled back. I said, "I'm very unhappy with the choices you made and the broken promises to my people," and I started crying. He said, "I will protect the water."

4. What has the prime minister done since then?
He promised to solve all boil-water advisories in Canada by March 2021. But there are still 54 advisories in First Nations communities, 44 in Ontario alone. Ontario has suffered the most, with poor housing and sanitation, and not having drinking water.

5. You are the chief water commissioner representing 39 First Nations in Ontario. What is your role?
I take ideas, questions, and concerns about water from the communities to our council leaders. And I have a say in decision-making.

6. Do you ever work with other water activists?
I meet many youth advocates for the environment in my travels. I know a lot of children my age, some older and some younger, who are doing the same work. It gives me hope and courage to know there are others out there.

RICHARD DREW—AP PHOTO

SPEAKING OUT Autumn Peltier talks about the right to clean water, at a United Nations forum in September 2019.

7. What can be done to protect the world's water?
There are industries that are trying to do things like dump toxic waste into the Great Lakes. We can't change these industries. But we can try to talk to them and raise our concerns. Clean drinking water is a basic human right. It doesn't matter what color our skin is. It doesn't matter if we're rich or poor.

8. What would you tell kids who want to speak out on behalf of others or the environment?
It is important to speak up on behalf of those who are too afraid to speak up. It can be as easy as writing a letter to your local leaders. The message is so much more powerful when it comes from a young person. You can be the light in someone's darkness.

Power Words

advisory *noun*: a warning or an alert, often one that recommends an action to be taken

indigenous *adjective*: native to a particular place

sanitation *noun*: conditions such as adequate sewage and trash removal

THIS INTERVIEW HAS BEEN EDITED FOR LENGTH AND CLARITY.

ON PLANET EARTH

For our Earth Day special issue, we're featuring three new books about our planet—and the plants and animals that live here.

HELLO, EARTH!

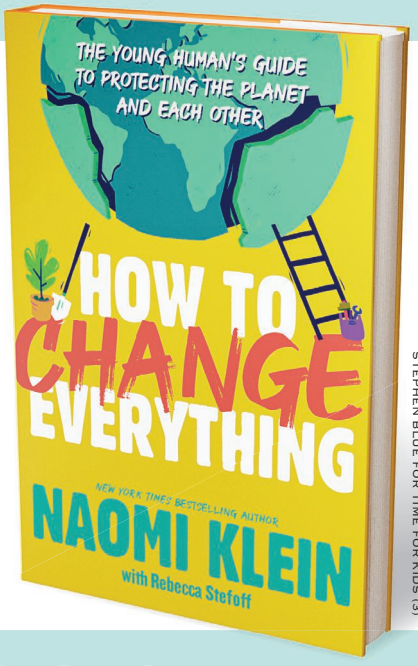
Hello, Earth! Poems to Our Planet explores the extraordinary place we call home. Each poem is dedicated to the Earth's wonders, such as its volcanoes, deserts, and oceans. **JOYCE SIDMAN** is the book's author. She told TIME for Kids she was inspired to use poetry to show young readers the beauty and importance of the environment. "It's a wonderful way of writing about the world that shows us the mysterious . . . things that go on in nature," she says.

—By Karena Phan

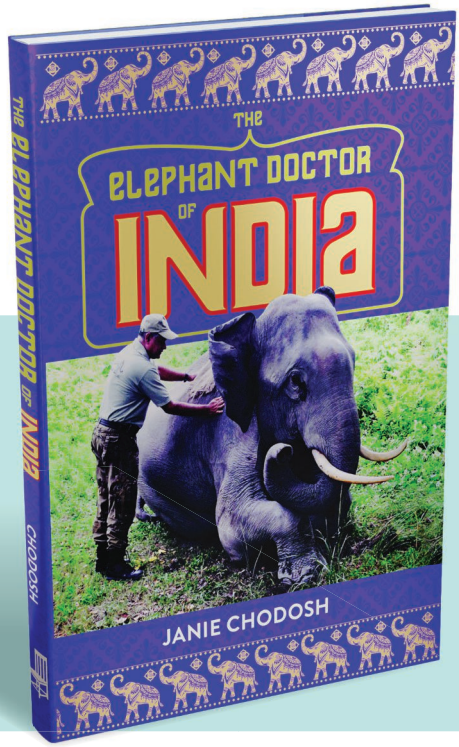
HOW TO CHANGE EVERYTHING

How to Change Everything, by **NAOMI KLEIN,** is a tool kit for young activists who want to fight climate change. The book explains both the chemistry and the politics of climate change. Klein has been writing about environmental activism for more than 15 years. "During that time, the movement has gotten younger and younger," she told TFK. Klein believes that kids have the power to make a difference. She wants readers to speak up. "Young people are already leading the climate movement. . . . [They're] raising the alarm and leading the way toward solutions."

—By Ellen Nam



STEPHEN BLUE FOR TIME FOR KIDS (3)



THE ELEPHANT DOCTOR OF INDIA

The Elephant Doctor of India tells the true story of Dr. Kushal Konwar Sarma, who grew up in a village in Assam, India. As a young boy, Sarma loved elephants. But the ones living in Assam didn't have proper medical care. This motivated him to become a veterinarian when he got older. Since realizing his dream, he has traveled all over Assam to heal and save elephants. **JANIE CHODOSH,** who wrote the book, told TFK she hopes Sarma's story will give kids "a sense of wonder" and "inspire them to care about the natural world."

—By Rebecca Mordechai

TIME for Kids Edition 5–6 (ISSN 2156-9150) is published weekly from September to May, except for school holidays and two double issues, by Time USA, LLC. Volume #11, Issue #22. Principal Office: 3 Bryant Park, New York, NY 10036. Periodical postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. Subscribers: If the postal authorities alert us that your magazine is undeliverable, we have no obligation unless we receive a corrected address within two years. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to TIME for Kids, P.O. Box 37508 Boone, IA 50037-0508. Subscription queries: 877-604-8017. TIME for Kids is a registered trademark at Time USA, LLC. For international licensing and syndication requests, please email *syndication@time.com.*